Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 05306 132143Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 MC-02 ACDA-07 /061 W

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CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 5306

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: TECH, IN, US

SUBJECT: INDIA PRESS COVERAGE OF THE ANDERSON STORY ON THE

REPROCESSING A-7 ISSUE

REF: STATE 81515

- 1. THE DELHI PRESS ON APRIL 13 GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO JACK ANDERSON'S STORY ON THE REPROCESSING/A-7 ISSUE. UNDER THE TITLE, "KISSINGER "BRIBE" TO BAR PINDI MAKING N-ARMS", M.V. KAMATH, THE "TIMES OF INDIA" WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, REPEATED MUCH OF THE ANDERSON ARTICLE. IN ADDITION, KAMATH STATED: "THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, HOWEVER, HAS AGREED TO RELEASE SOME SPARE PARTS FOR HARDWARE PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED, WHICH COULD ACTIVATE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF EQUIPMENT". (THIS IS PRESUMABLE A REFERENCE TO THE REFIT OF PAKISTANI TANKS IN IRAN.)
- 2. THE OFFICIAL NEW AGENCY, SAMACHAR, ALSO PICKED UP THE ANDERSON STORY, AND ITS DESPATCH WAS CARRIED BY SEVERAL DELHI PAPERS. GOING BEYOND THE ANDERSON PIECE, THE "STATESMAN" WROTE: "THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION RECENTLY APPROVED SHIPMENT OF CERTAIN MILITARY ITEMS TO PAKISTAN SAYING THAT THE SUPPLIES HAD ALREADY BEEN APPROVED BY THE FORD ADMINISTRATIN. NO DECISION HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN ANNOUNCED BY THE CARTER GOVT ON THE SALE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 05306 132143Z

110 A-7 ATTACK PLANES SOUGHT BY PAKISTAN".

3. COMMENT: THE ANDERSON STORY MAY ONCE AGAIN FOCUS INDIAN ATTENTION ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT PAKISTAN MAY SOMEHOW ACQUIRE A-7S, A STEP THE GOI REGARDS AS DANGEROUSLY INIMICAL TO INDIAN INTERESTS. THE NEW GOVT IS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE ARMS TRANSFER PROCESS AND MUST LEARN ANEW THAT THESE WIDELY PUBLICIZED REPORTS

DO NOT INVARIABLY SPELL A THREAT TOINDIAN SECURITY. UNTIL THE
NEW POLITICAL MASTERS OF INDIA CAN PUT THE MATTER INTO PERSPECTIVE,
THEY WILL REGARD SUCH REPORTS WITH CONSIDERABLE CONCERN.

SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: TECH, SOPN, IN, US, (ANDERSON, JACK)

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